

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

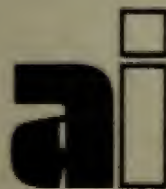
Romeo and Juliet



BR201 .J68 .J51 95

Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare



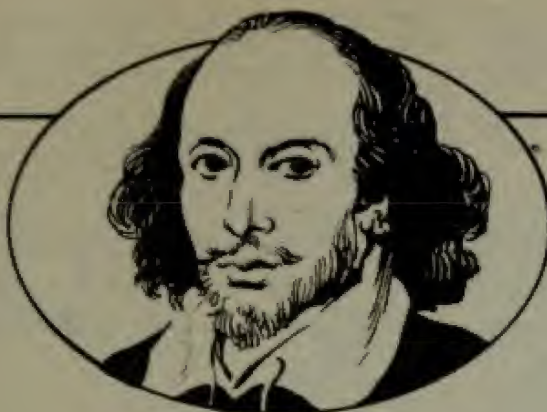
Academic Industries, Inc.
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

COPYRIGHT © 1984 BY ACADEMIC INDUSTRIES, INC.
All Rights Reserved

ISBN 0-88301-768-7

Published by
Academic Industries, Inc.
The Academic Building
Saw Mill Road
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

Printed in the United States of America

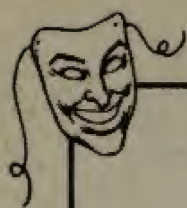


about the author

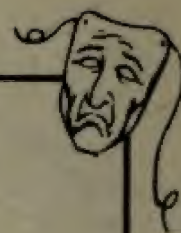
William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin.

In 1582 Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, The King's Men, appeared most often in the Globe theatre, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theatre, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.



William Shakespeare



Romeo and Juliet



Romeo and Juliet

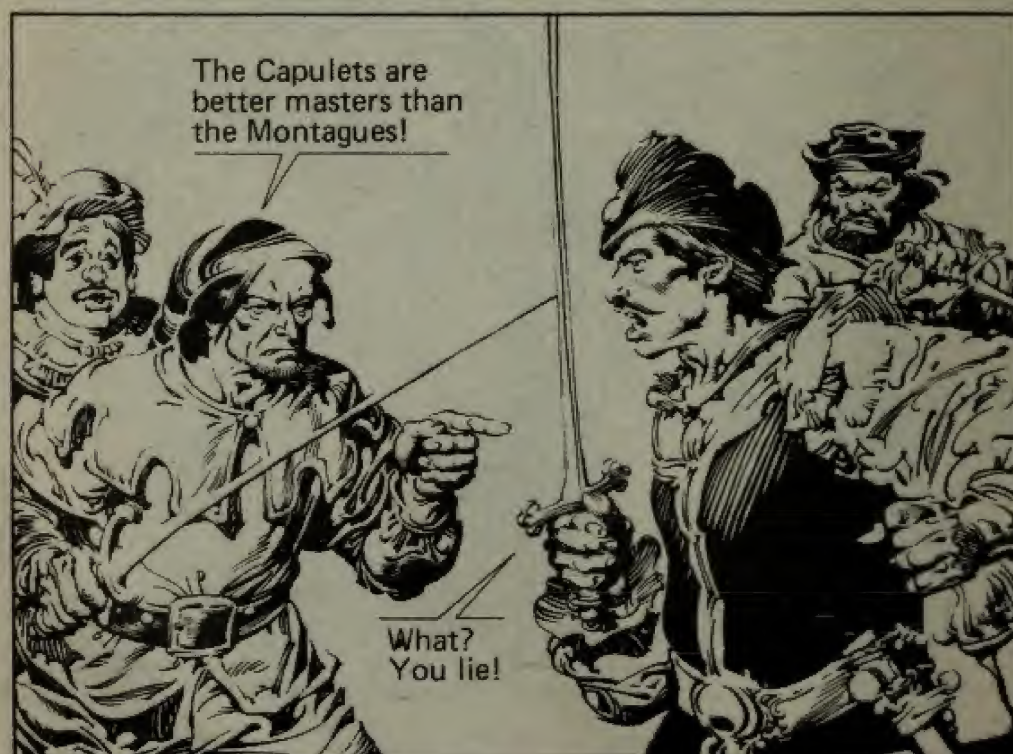
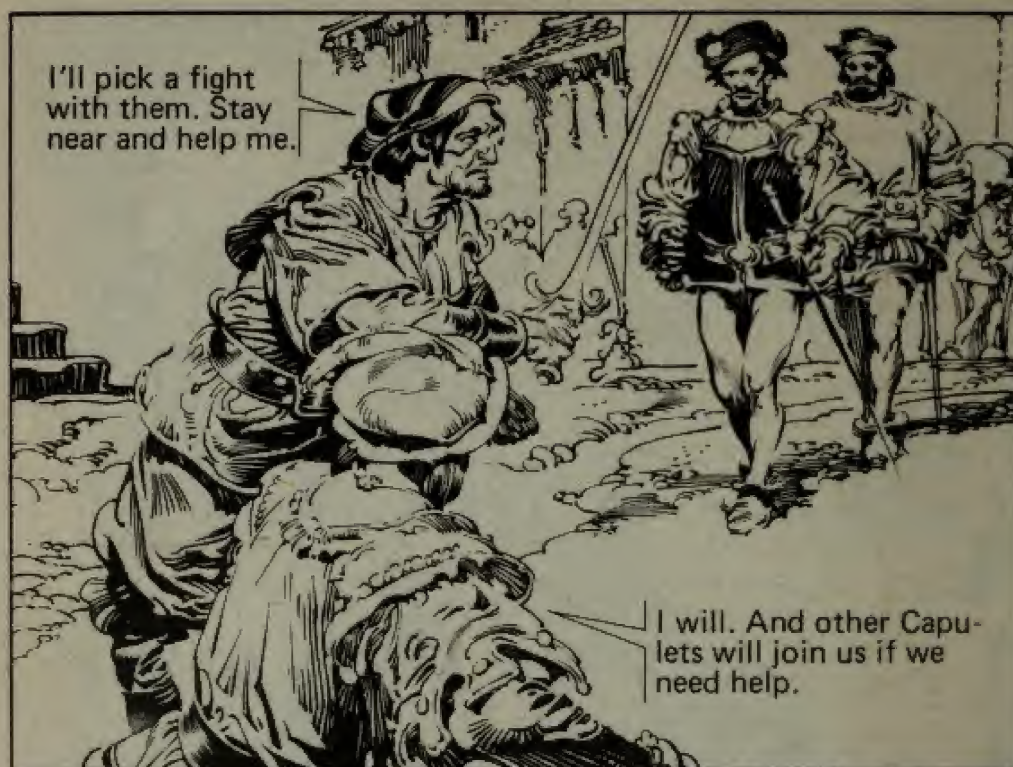
Many years ago in Verona, Italy, there lived two families who hated one another. The Montagues and the Capulets had been carrying on a feud for as long as they could remember.

If those Montagues should come by, I'll strike before they can run away!

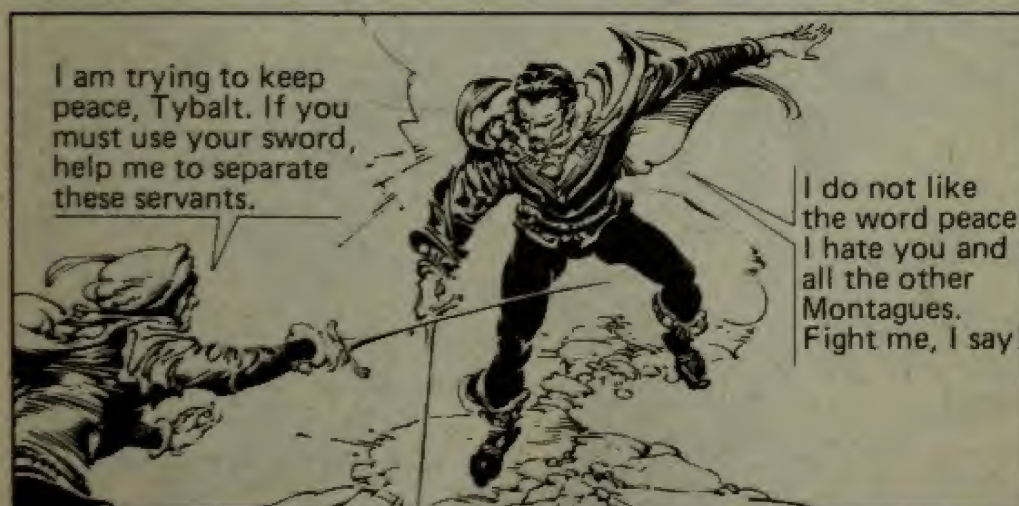
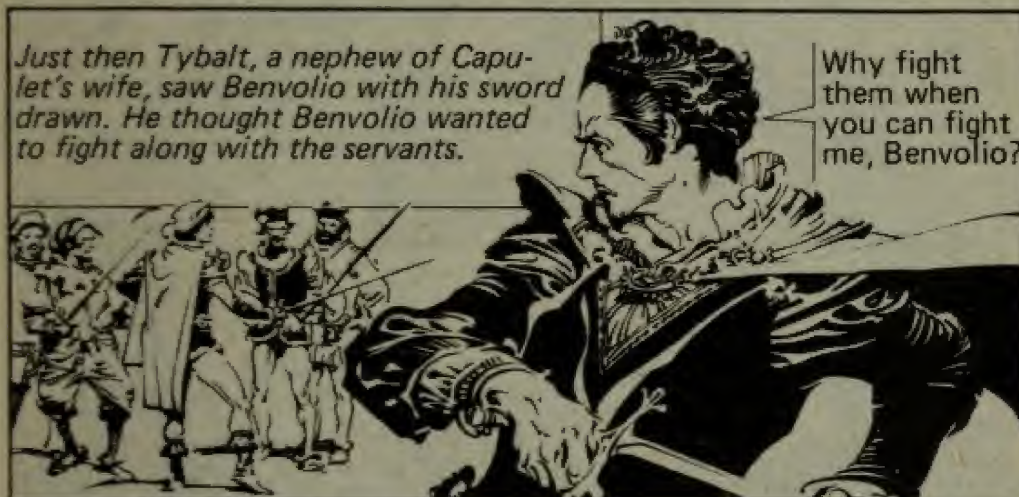
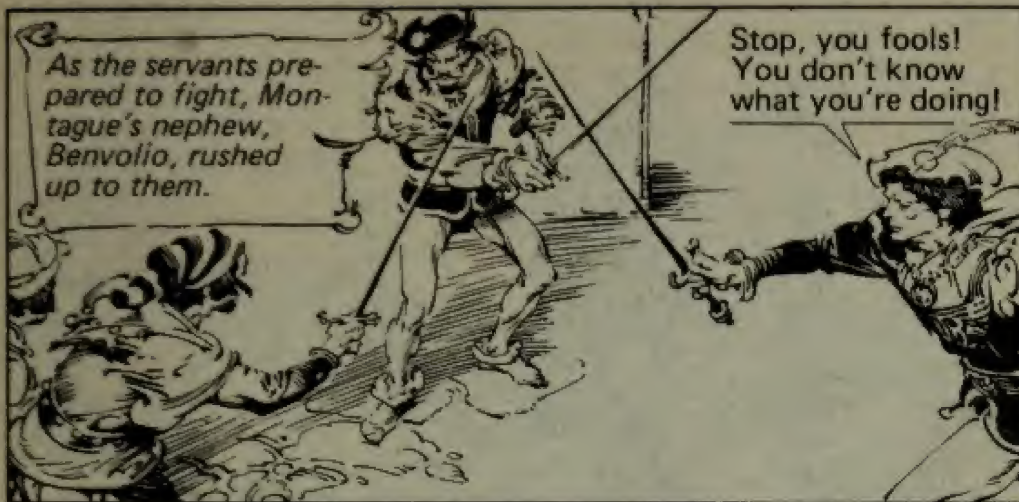
Then take out your sword, for two of them are coming now.

Sampson and Gregory were servants of the Capulets. They were just as ready to fight the Montagues as their masters were.

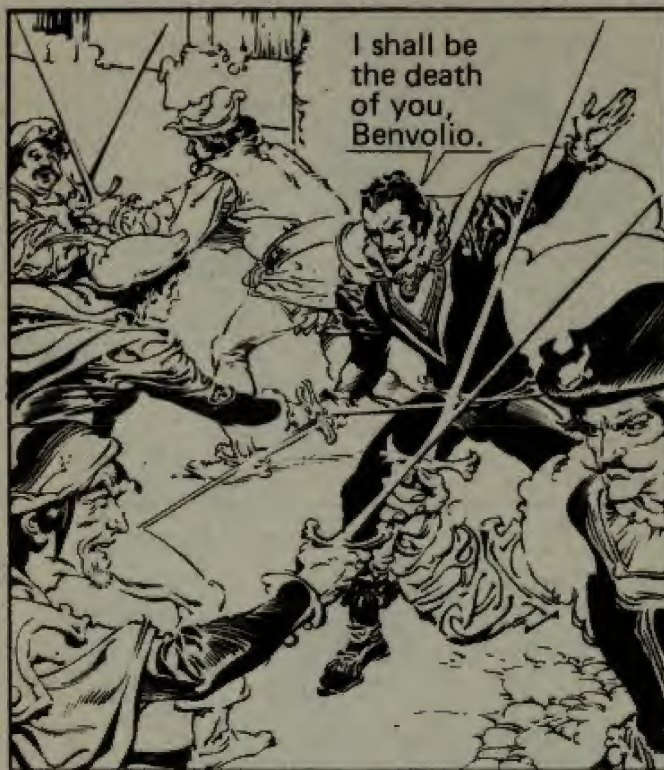
POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

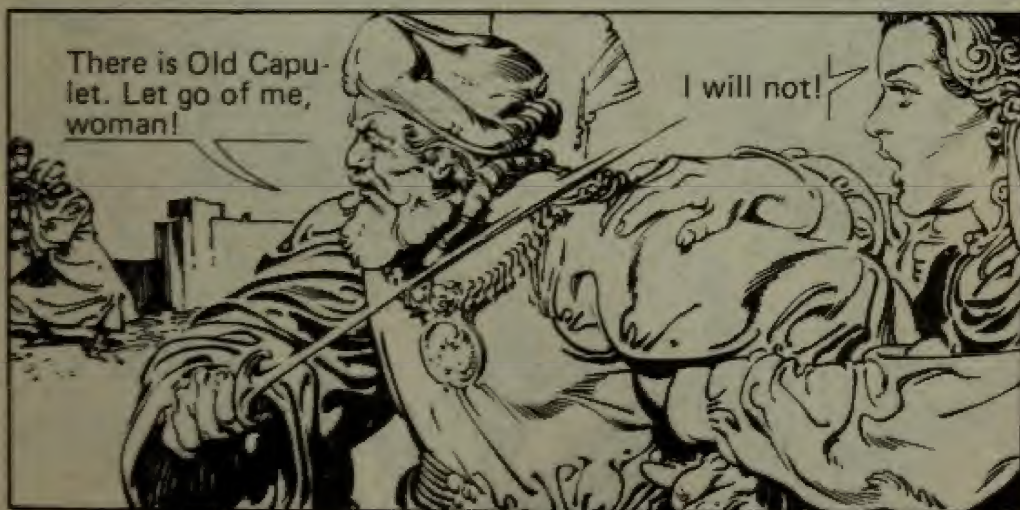


*Many good citizens
of Verona were tired
of the long feud.
They rushed up to
the fighting men.*

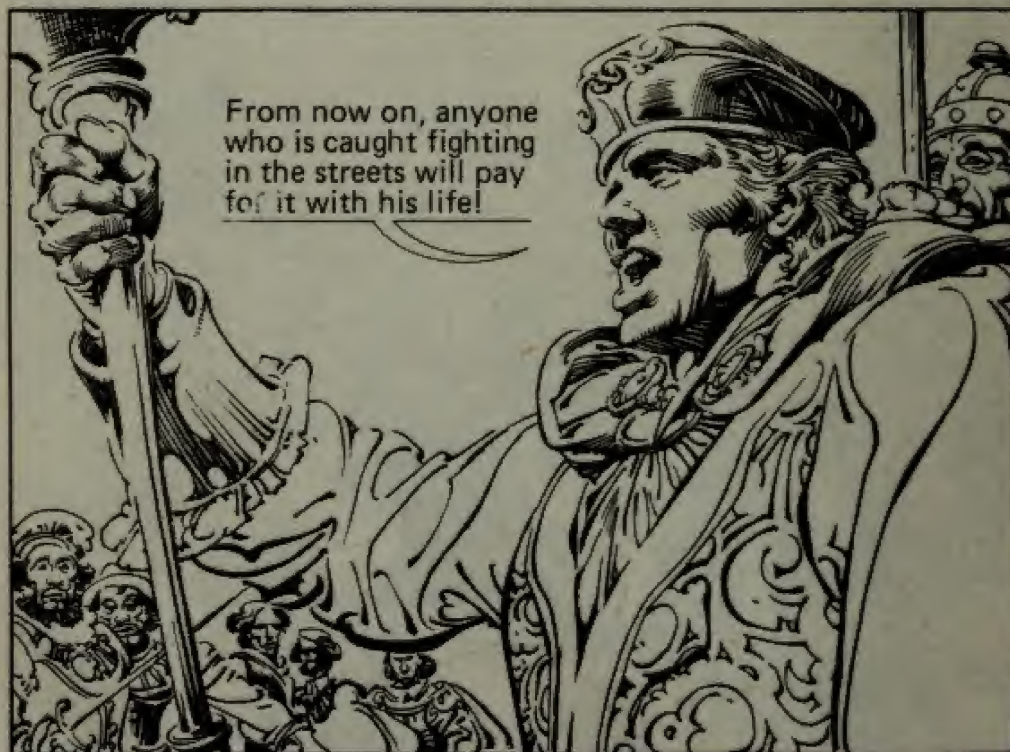


Romeo and Juliet

Hearing the noise, Old Capulet and Lord Montague came out of their houses to see what was happening.



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

With this the prince left, and the people went back to their homes.

By the way, Benvolio, have you seen my son Romeo to-day? I am glad he was not in this fight.



I saw him walking this morning, Lady Montague. He wanted to be left alone.

He has been doing that a lot lately, dear wife. He stays up all night long. And during the day he locks himself in his room.



As they spoke, Romeo came down the street. Benvolio went alone to talk with him.

Good morning, cousin. What is bothering you?



Oh, Benvolio, I am in love!

POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

A short time later, Old Capulet met with the County Paris, a handsome and rich young man.

Sir, I would like to marry your daughter Juliet.

She is very young. But if she is willing, I will let you marry her.

Come to my feast tonight. You may see some other lady more beautiful than Juliet.

I will come, sir.

Old Capulet called his servant and gave him a list of names.

Go and invite all the people on this list to my home tonight.

POCKET CLASSICS

At his master's order, the servant took the list and left. But because he could not read, he had to stop someone and ask for help. As luck would have it, Romeo and Benvolio happened to be walking by just then.



Excuse me, good sirs.
Can you tell me whose
names are on this paper?

As Romeo read the list for him, he saw that the name of the lady he loved was included.



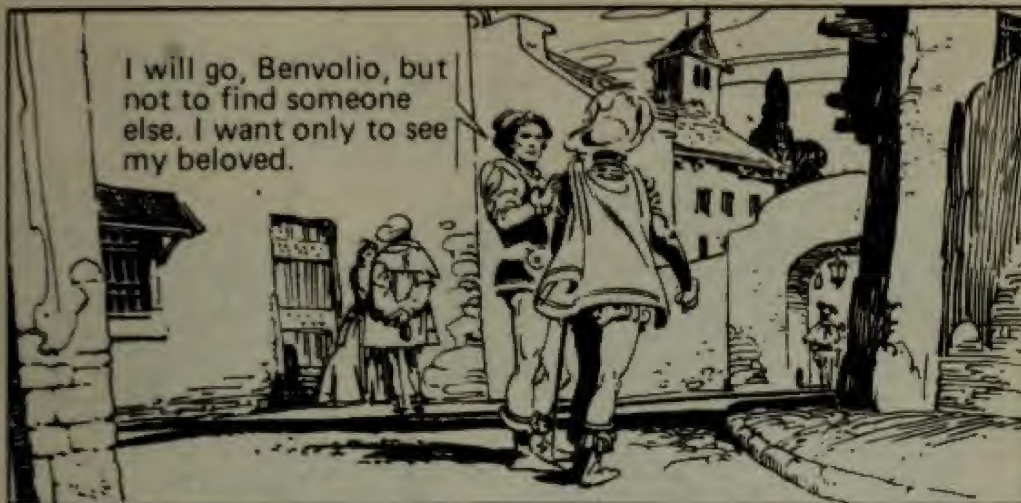
Thank you for
helping me, sirs.
My master is Lord
Capulet. If you
are not Montagues,
you are welcome
to attend his party.

When the servant left, Benvolio quickly spoke with Romeo.

So your lady is on the list! Let us go to the feast tonight. I am sure you will see others there who are just as pretty. When you compare them, you will agree with me!



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

That evening Romeo and Benvolio joined the other guests at the Capulets' costume party. Mercutio, another friend, went along as well.



POCKET CLASSICS



Some time later, Romeo arrived. Catching sight of Juliet across the room, he asked a servant her name.

What lady is that? She is very lovely.

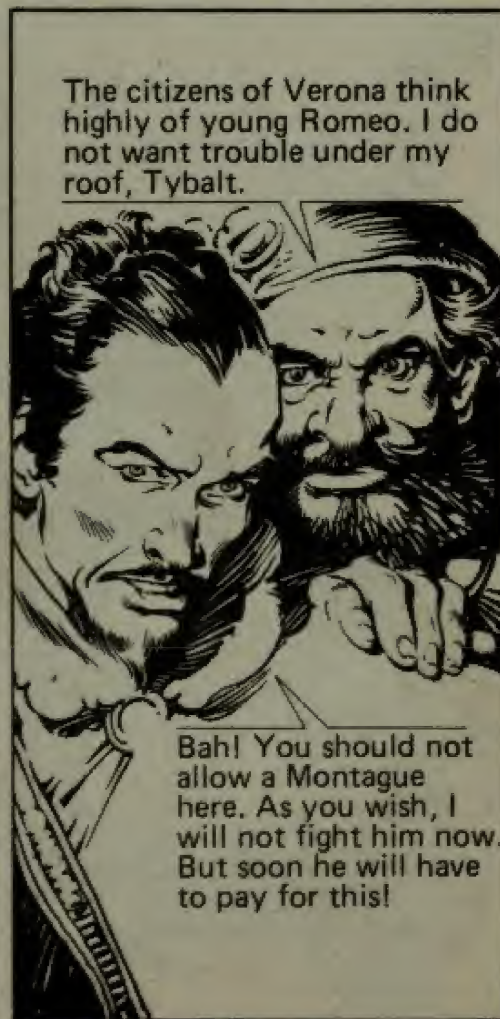
I do not know her name, sir.



She is like a snowy dove among dark crows. My heart has not known love until tonight!



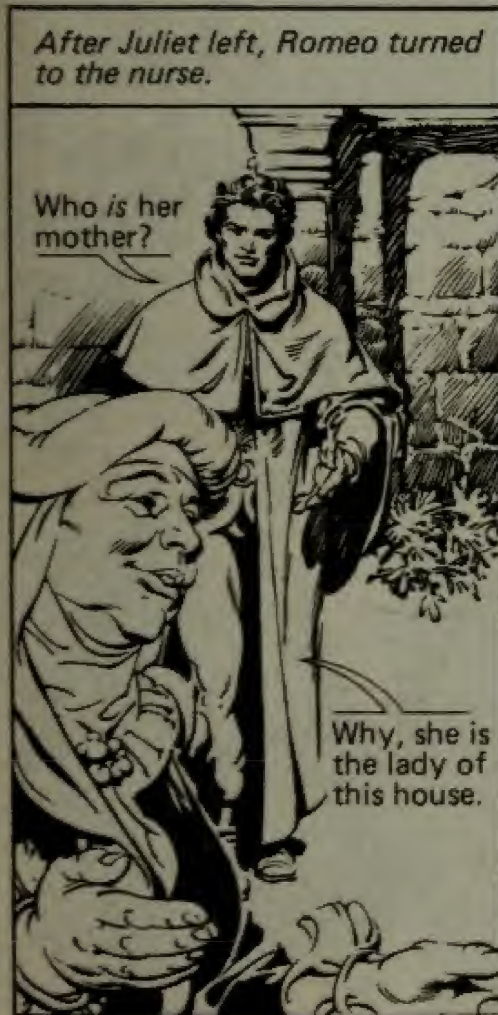
Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

Coming up behind him, Benvolio could tell that something had disturbed Romeo.



Let us leave now.

Yes, perhaps you are right.

As they walked to the door, Lord Capulet urged Romeo and Benvolio to stay. They refused.



We must be going, good sir. But we are glad we came.

When the young men had left, Capulet realized that the party had gone on long enough.



The hour grows late and I must rest. Thank you for coming, everyone. Good night.

Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

Meanwhile, once outside, Romeo could not bear to go home without catching another glimpse of his beloved Juliet.

How can I go forward when my love remains here?



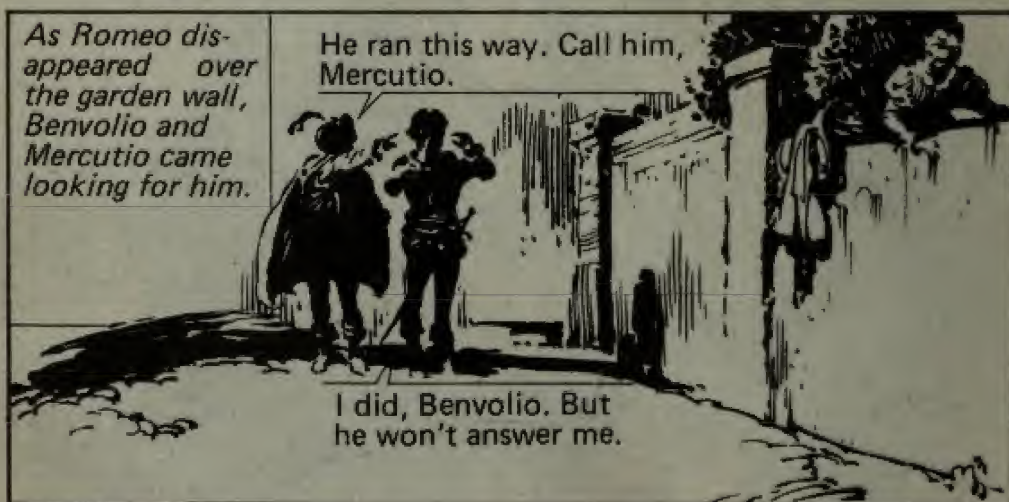
I must see Juliet again!



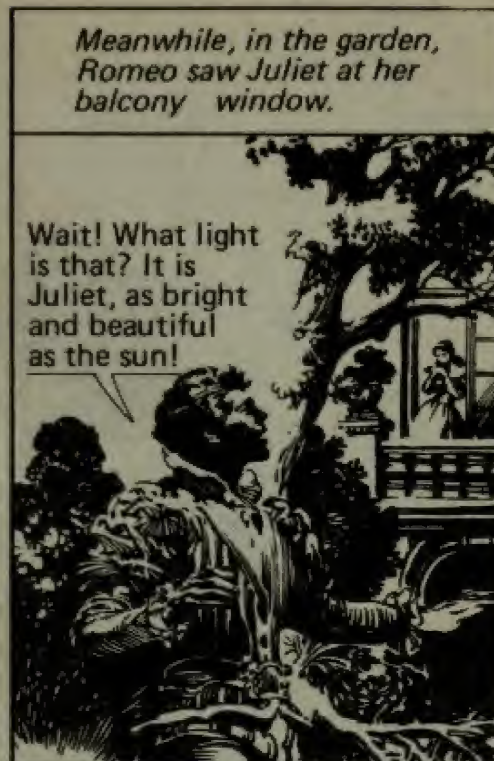
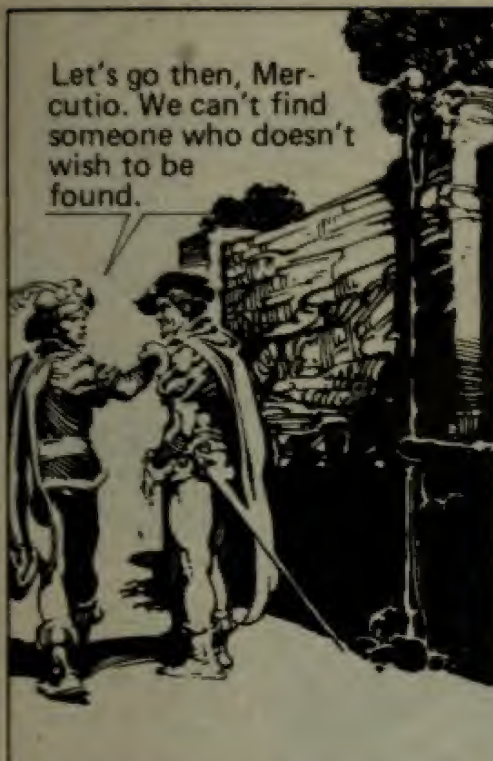
As Romeo disappeared over the garden wall, Benvolio and Mercutio came looking for him.

He ran this way. Call him, Mercutio.

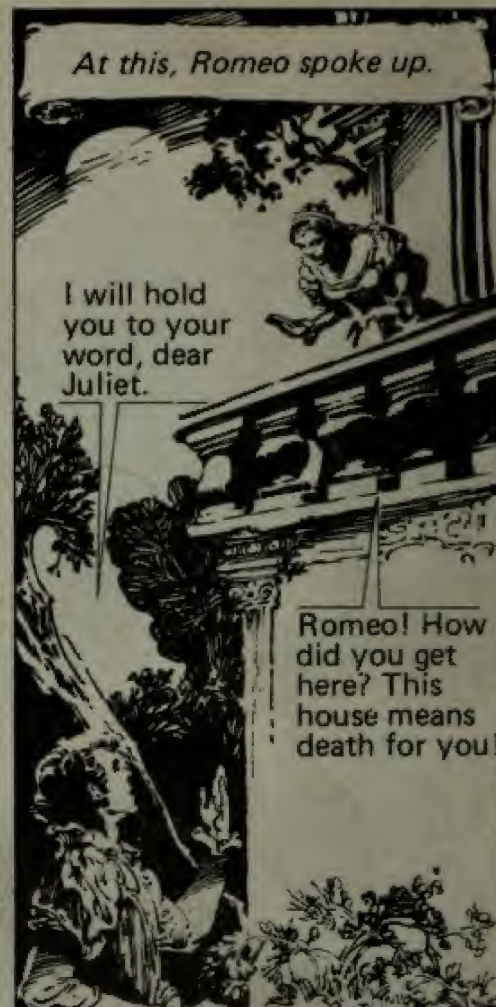
I did, Benvolio. But he won't answer me.



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet spoke for a few moments of their love. Then Juliet heard her nurse calling at the bedroom door.

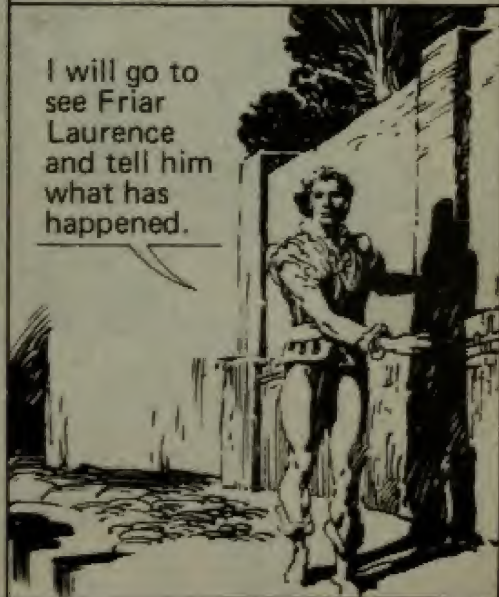


Good night,
my love.



Romeo climbed back over the wall. Even though it was very late, he knew he would not be able to sleep.

I will go to
see Friar
Laurence
and tell him
what has
happened.



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo, you are up early this morning. Why, I think you haven't been to bed at all!

That is right, Father. Even so, I've had a sweeter rest than you have!



Have you been with Rosaline?

No, I have completely forgotten her.



Where have you been, then?

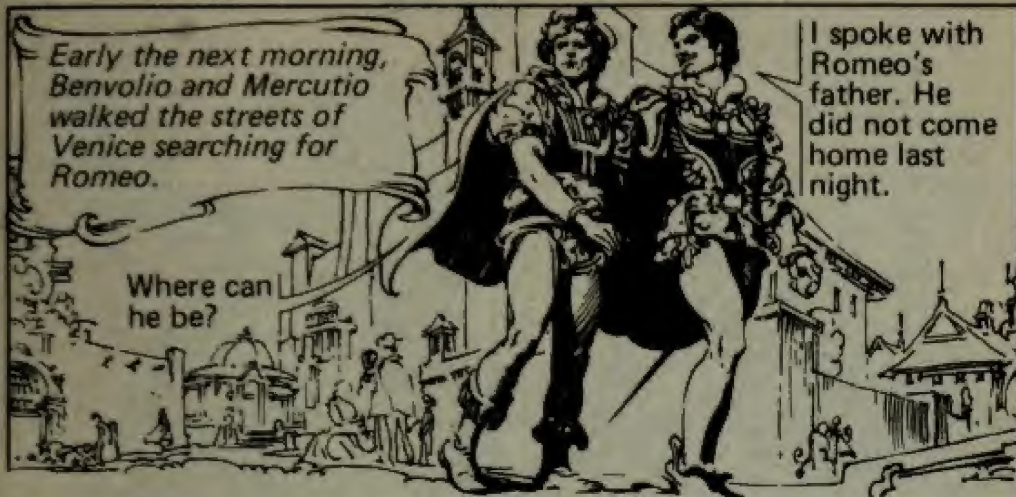
I have fallen in love with Juliet, Lord Capulet's daughter. You must marry us!

After a few moments of silence, Friar Laurence agreed.

I will help you, Romeo. By joining the Montagues and the Capulets, I may end the feud between your two families!



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

Benvolio was the first to see his friend coming toward them.

Ah, here comes Romeo.

Good day to you both. Please forgive me for running off without you last night.



Just then Juliet's nurse and a servant walked up.

Can any of you gentlemen tell me where I might find Romeo?



I am Romeo.

I would like to speak with you in private, sir.



At this, Mercutio and Benvolio excused themselves.

We are going to dinner at your father's house, Romeo.



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

It grew very warm that afternoon, and Benvolio pleaded with Mercutio to go home.

I think we should leave, Mercutio. It is hot, and many Capulets are nearby. If we meet one of them, we will surely be in for a fight.

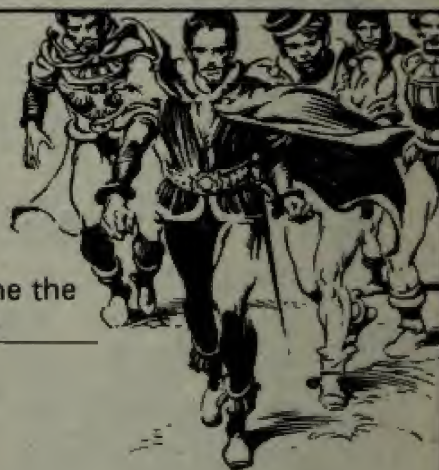


Come on, now, Benvolio. You use the smallest excuse to pick a quarrel yourself!



As they were speaking, Tybalt and some other Capulets appeared. Tybalt was looking for Romeo.

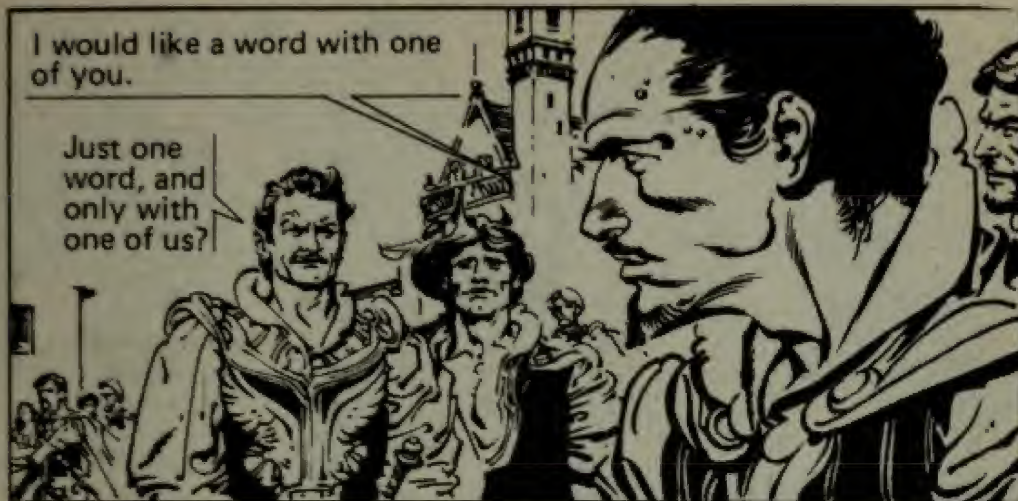
Here come the Capulets.



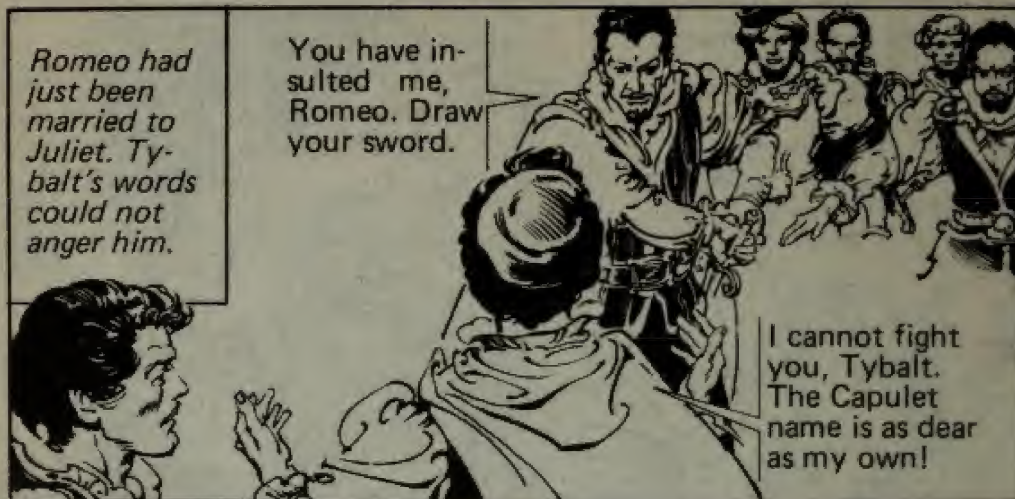
I don't care. Let them come!



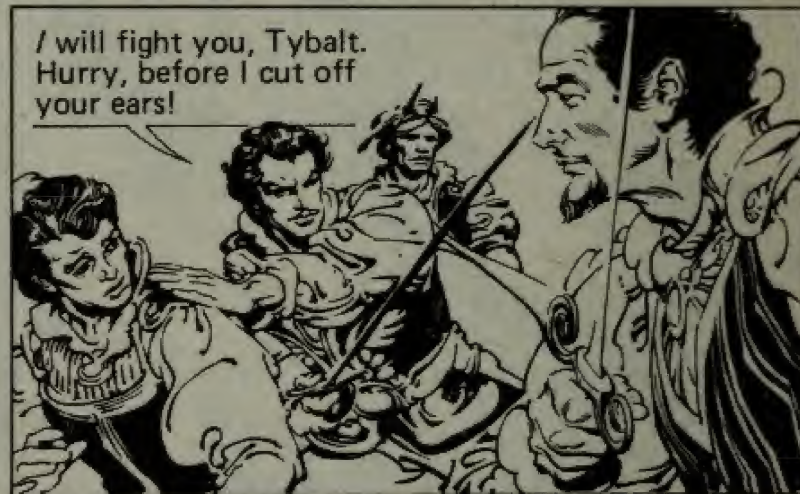
Romeo and Juliet



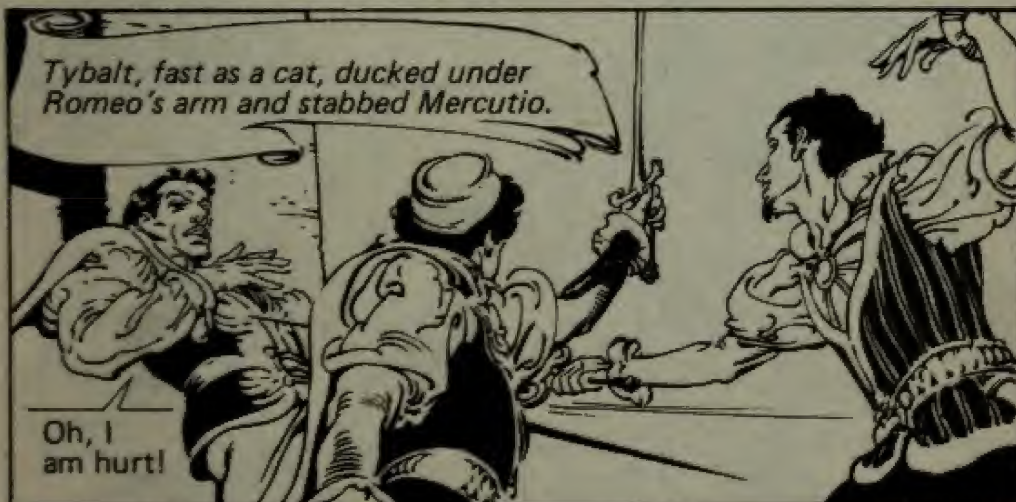
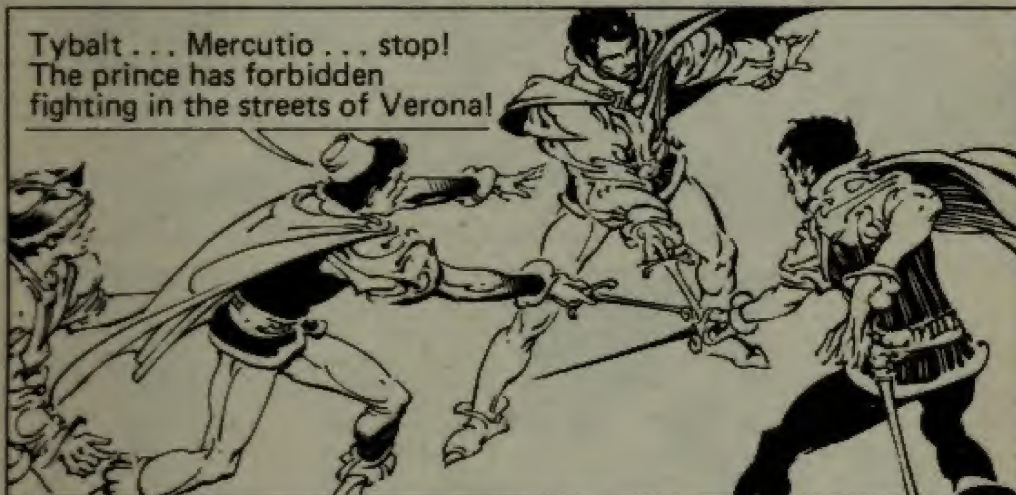
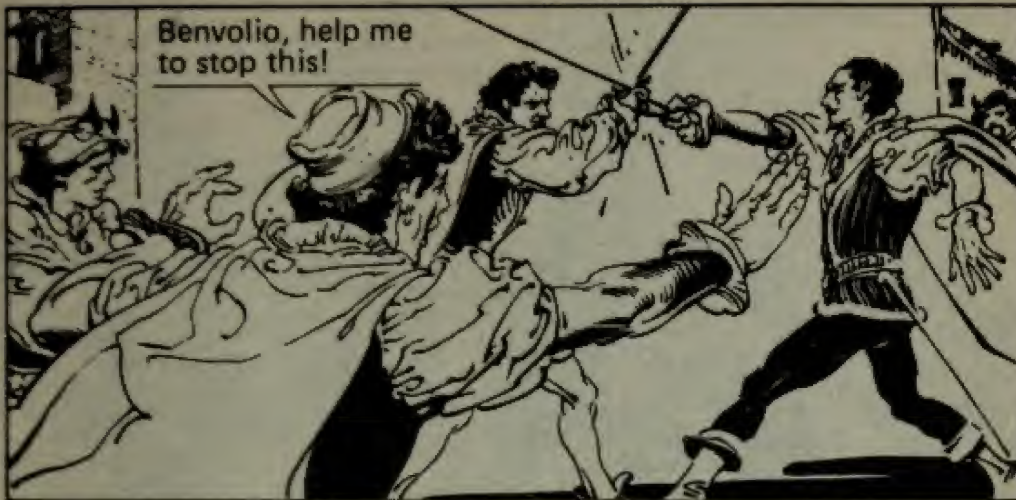
POCKET CLASSICS



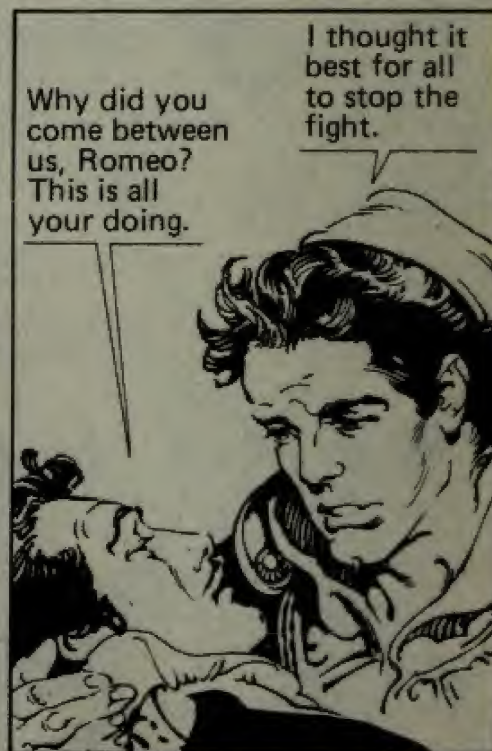
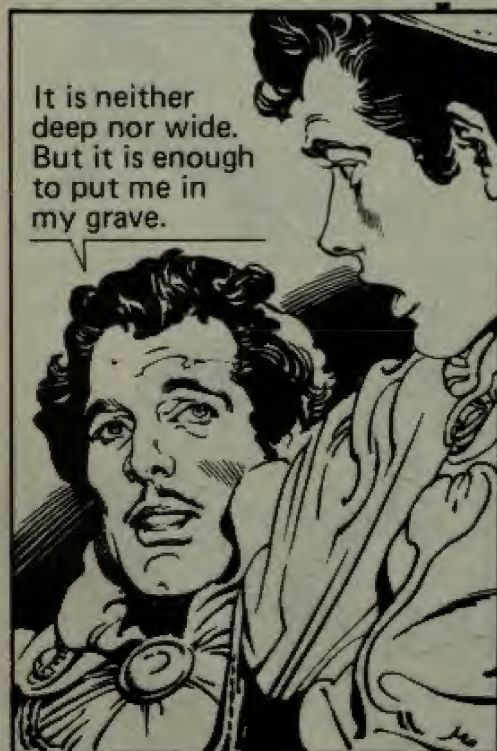
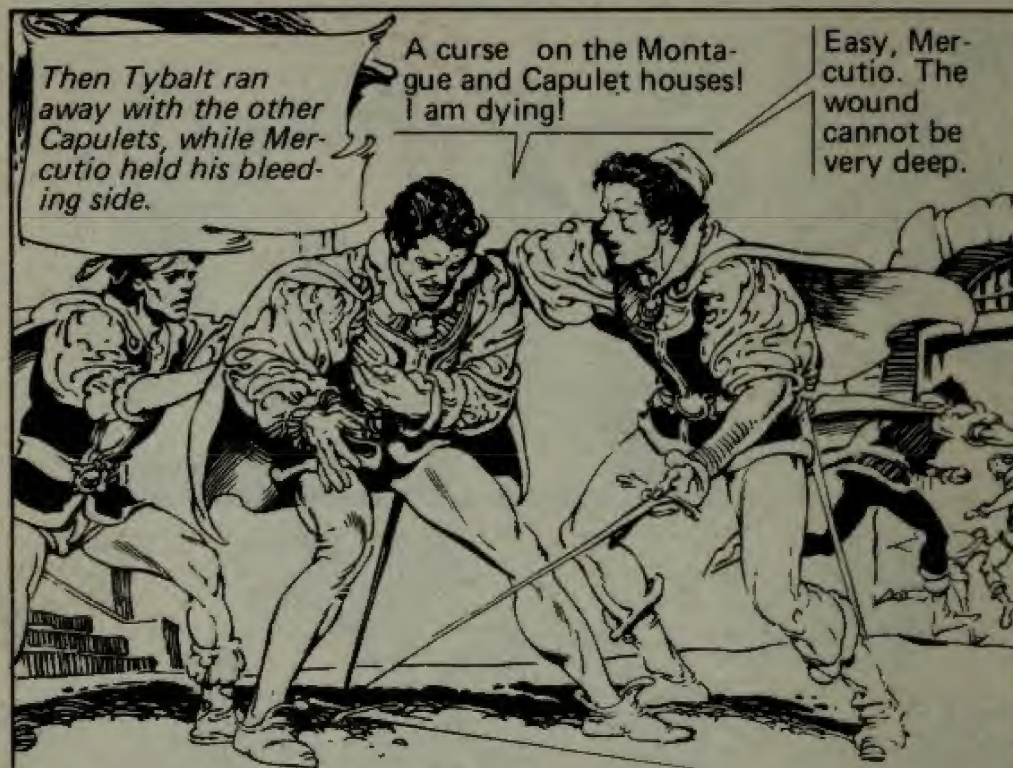
Hearing this, Mercutio thought Romeo was too love-sick to fight. He challenged Tybalt himself.



Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

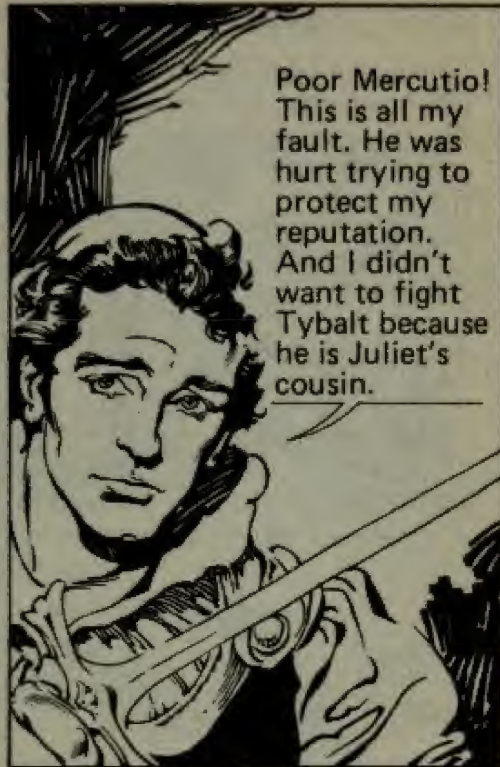


Romeo and Juliet

Help me to a house, Ben-
volio, or I will die in the
street.



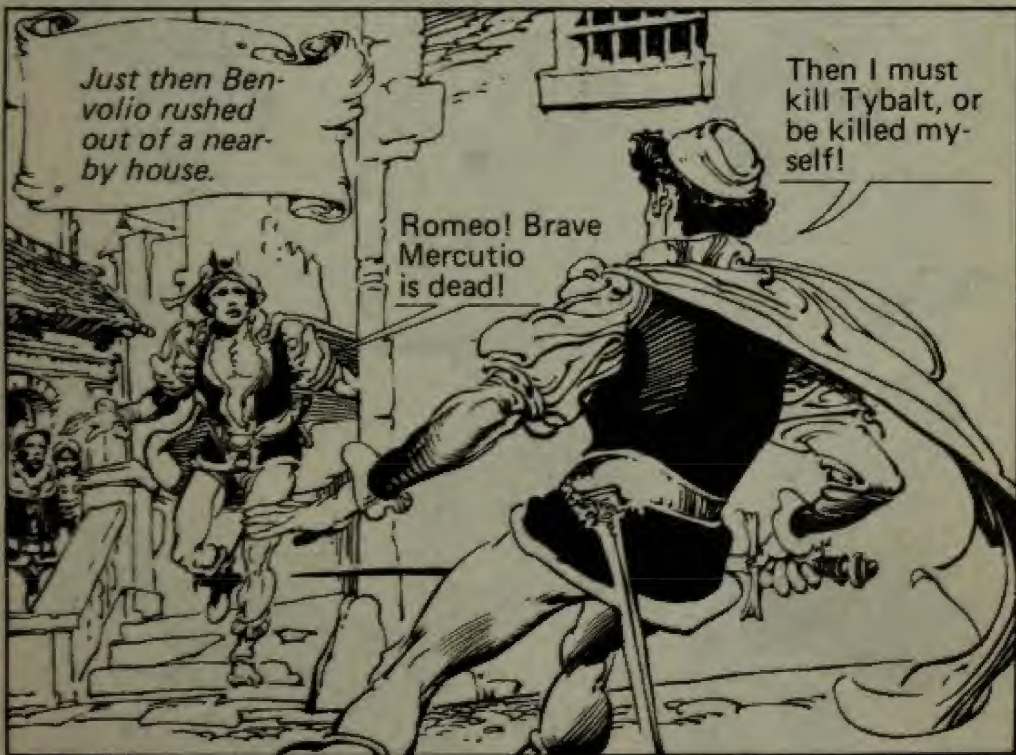
Poor Mercutio!
This is all my
fault. He was
hurt trying to
protect my
reputation.
And I didn't
want to fight
Tybalt because
he is Juliet's
cousin.



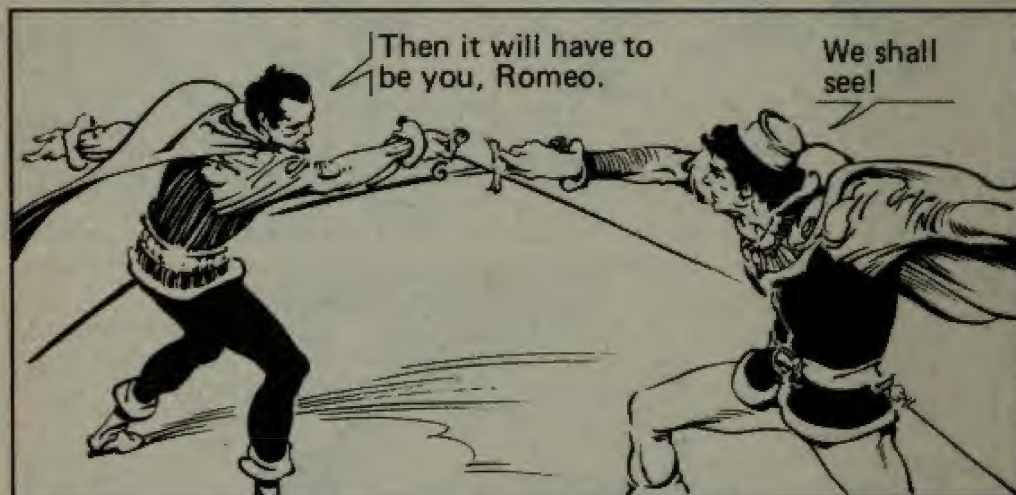
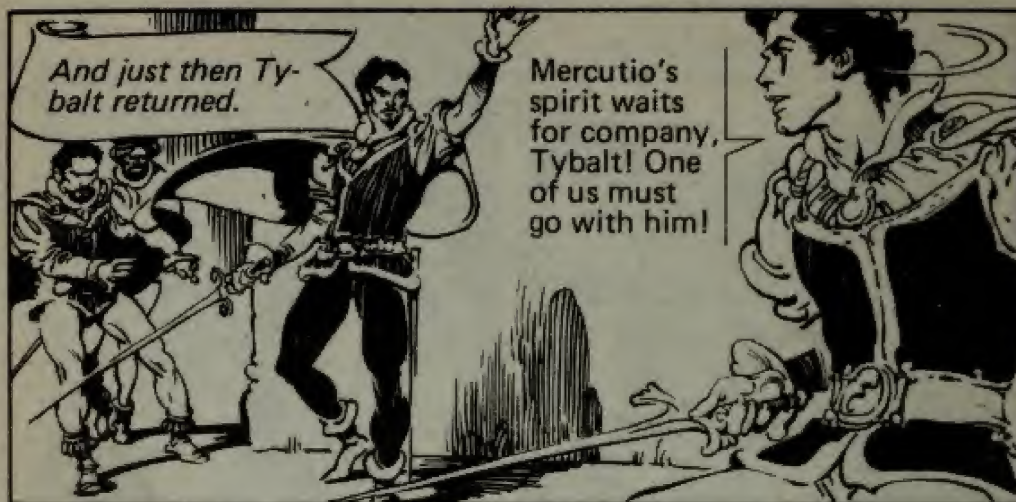
Just then Ben-
volio rushed
out of a near-
by house.

Romeo! Brave
Mercutio
is dead!

Then I must
kill Tybalt, or
be killed my-
self!



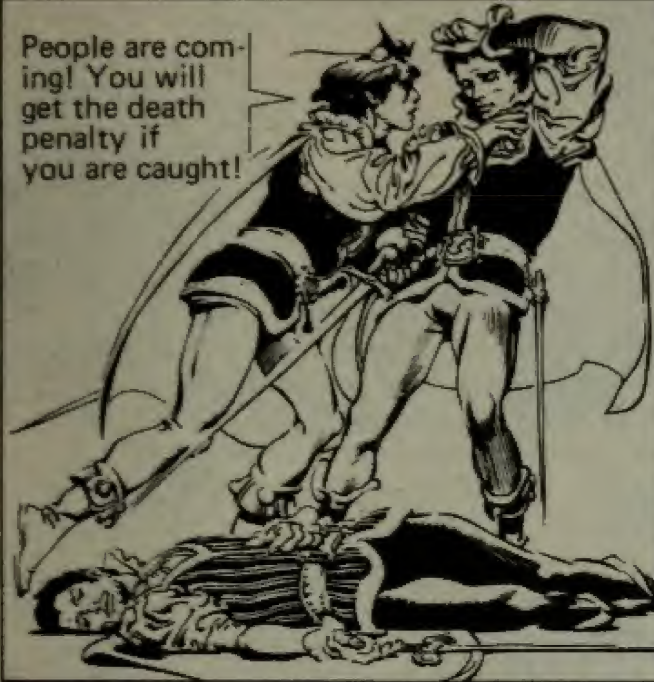
POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

Seeing this, Benvolio urged Romeo to leave.

People are coming! You will get the death penalty if you are caught!



Benvolio is right. I am a fool.



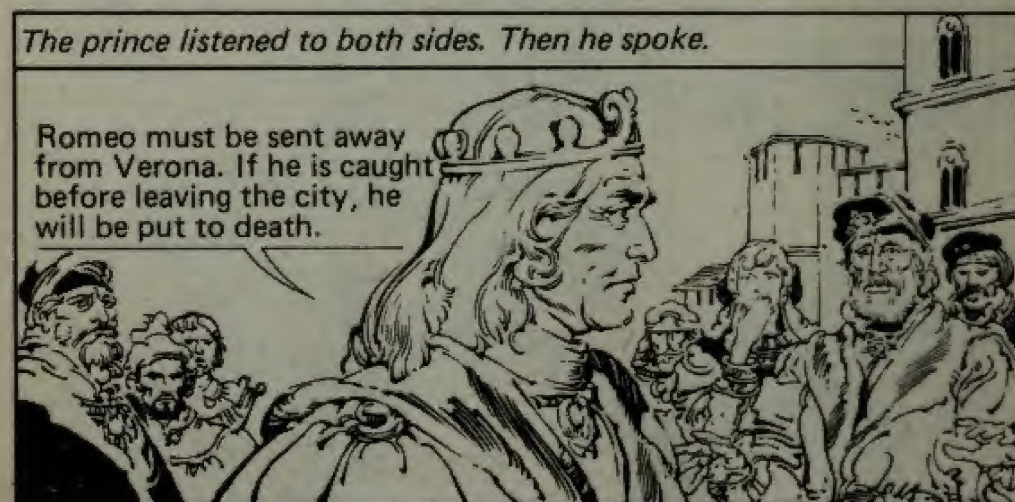
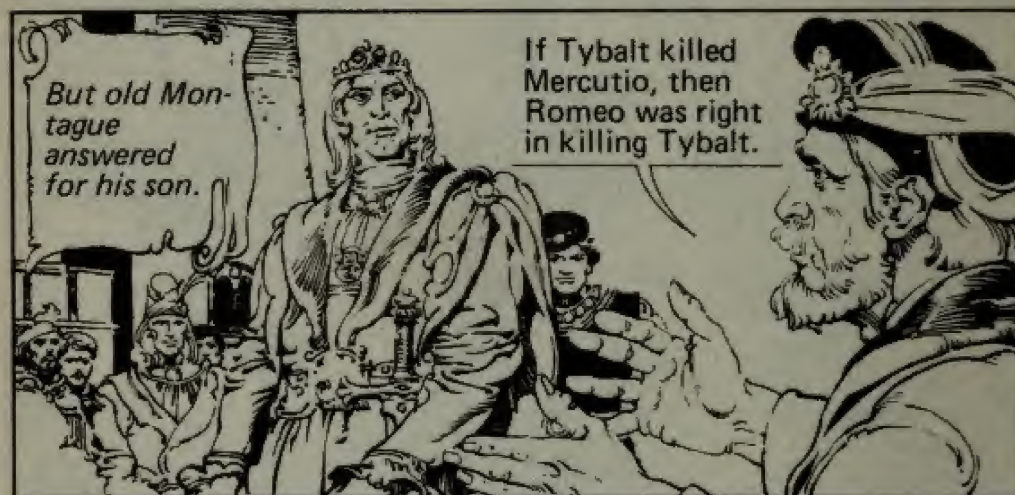
A crowd soon gathered. The prince himself came to learn what had happened.

Who started this fight?

Tybalt killed Mercutio, and Romeo fought Tybalt for doing it.



POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet

Meanwhile, knowing nothing of what had happened, Juliet was sitting quietly in her garden.



Tonight
Romeo will
climb my
balcony,
and we will
be together!

Suddenly the nurse arrived carrying the rope ladder that Romeo would use. She was very upset.



What is
wrong,
nurse?

Tybalt is dead, killed
by Romeo. The prince
has sent your new
husband away from
the city!

*At this, Juliet was
filled with grief.*



If I cannot
have Romeo,
I will die!

No, Juliet. Do not
kill yourself. I know
where Romeo is hid-
ing. I will tell him to
see you tonight be-
fore he leaves.

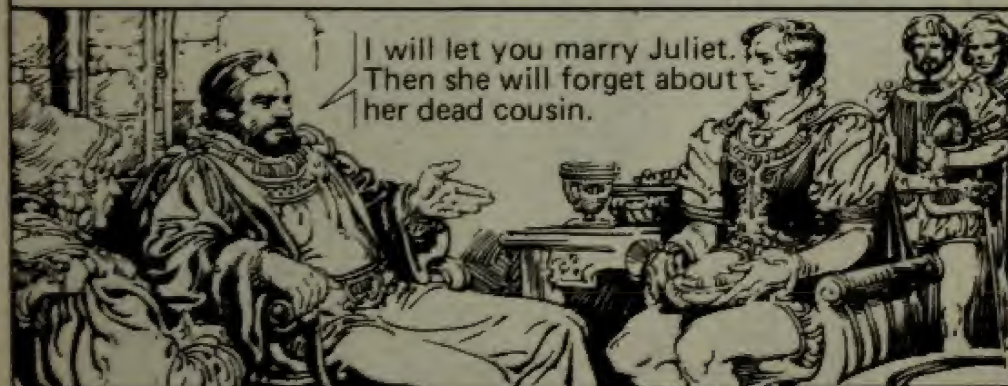
POCKET CLASSICS



Romeo and Juliet



All this time, Juliet's father did not know his daughter was wed to Romeo. He made plans with the County Paris.



POCKET CLASSICS

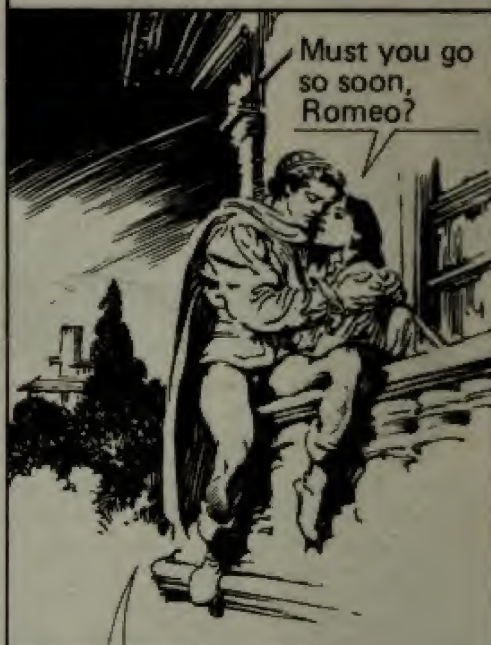
You may take my daughter as your wife next Thursday. How does that sound?



Sir, I wish tomorrow were Thursday!

I will go upstairs and tell Juliet about this.

At this very moment Romeo was standing on Juliet's balcony.



Must you go so soon, Romeo?

Yes, my love. The birds are starting to sing and the sun is coming up. If I stay any longer I will be killed.

But I would gladly stay and die for you, Juliet, if that is what you wish.



No, no! You must leave!

Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

As Lady Capulet entered the room, she saw how sad Juliet was and thought she was still weeping at Tybalt's death.



I have good news, Juliet. To make you happy, we have arranged for you to marry the County Paris.

Oh, no! Mother, I will never marry him!

In a moment her father entered the room. Lady Capulet turned to him.

Juliet does not want to marry Paris.

What? You shall, Juliet, or I will send you out of this house!



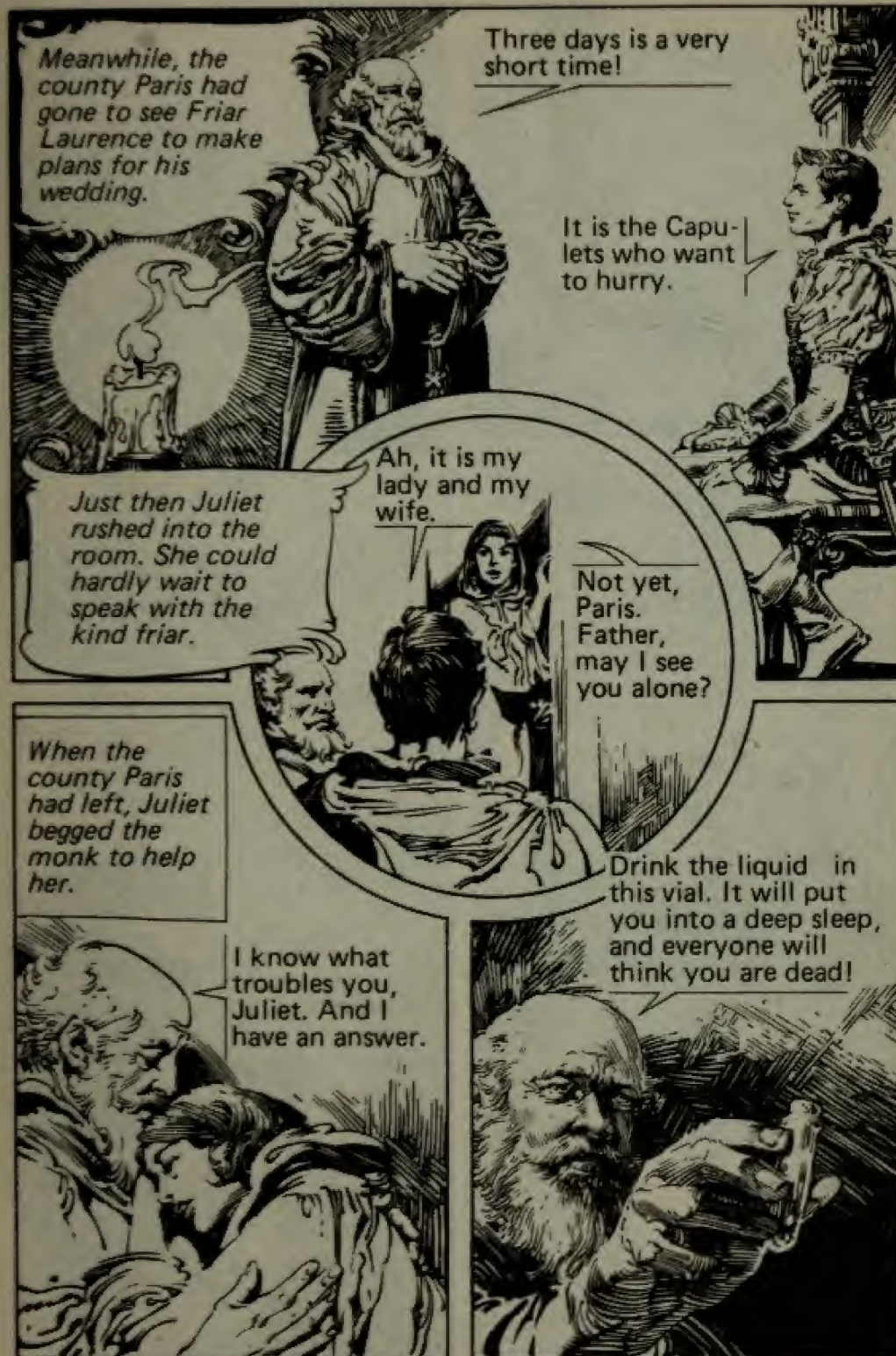
Of course the Capulets thought they knew what was best for their daughter. When she would not do as they wished, they left her room angrily. Then Juliet found a way to get out of the house.

Nurse, I must go and see Friar Laurence. I have to tell him that I made my parents angry.



That's a good idea, Juliet.

Romeo and Juliet



POCKET CLASSICS

You will then be placed in a tomb. I will write to Romeo, and he will be there when you wake up.



Juliet returned at once to her father's house.

Father, I met Paris in Friar Laurence's room. I believe he is a good man.



Then you shall marry him tomorrow instead of Thursday!

Then you and Romeo can go to live in Mantua.



I'll do it! Goodbye, Father.

Up in her room, Juliet drank the liquid Friar Laurence had given her.

Romeo, I do this to join you!



Romeo and Juliet



The next morning, the nurse went to Juliet's room to prepare her for the wedding.



Hearing the nurse's cries, Lord and Lady Capulet rushed into the room.



Downstairs, the county Paris waited with Friar Laurence.



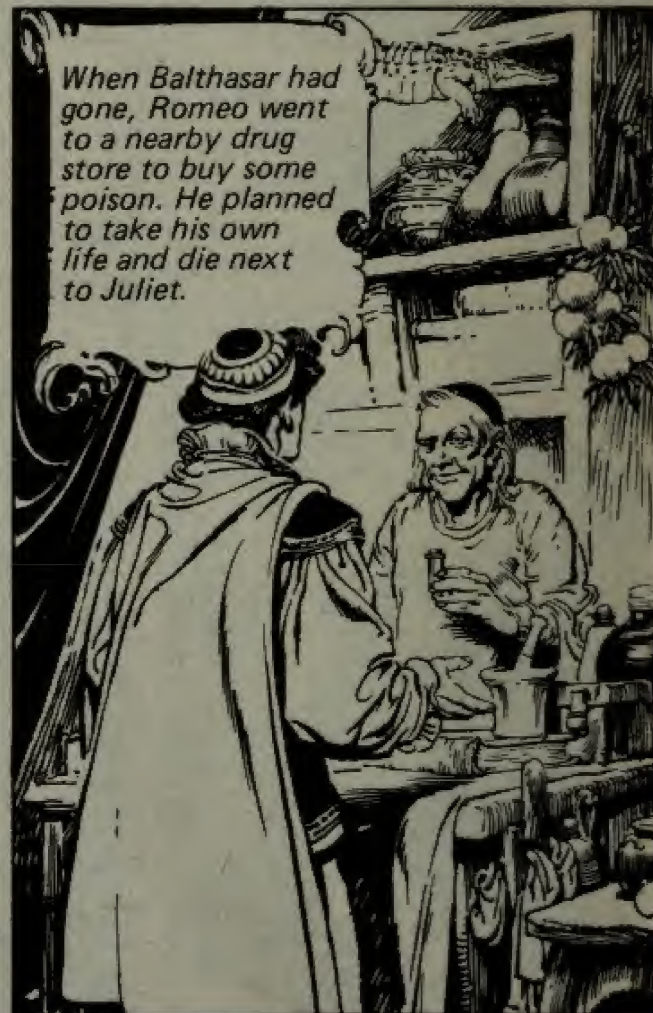
POCKET CLASSICS



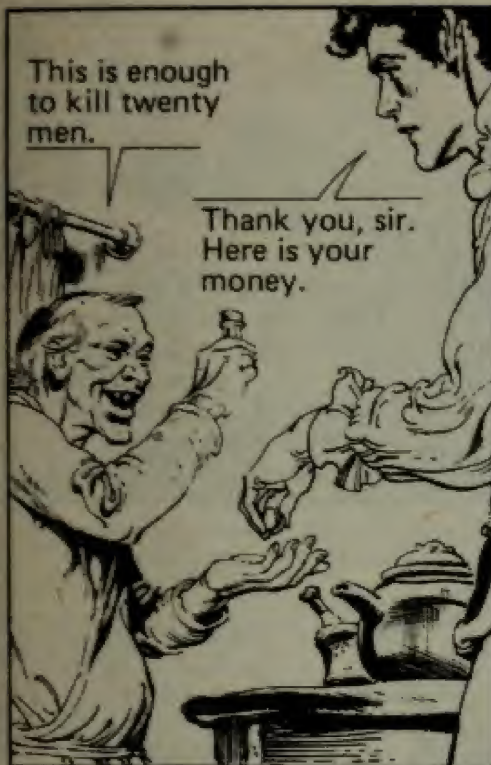
Romeo was stunned at the news, but he made plans quickly.

Get some horses for us, Balthasar. We will leave for Verona tonight. Are there any messages from Friar Laurence?

No, none.



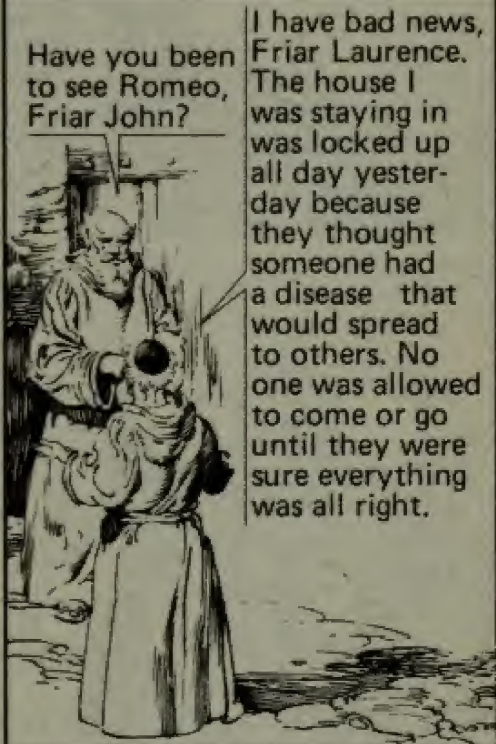
Romeo and Juliet



This is enough to kill twenty men.

Thank you, sir. Here is your money.

Meanwhile, back in Verona, Friar Laurence was very upset. The day before, he had written a letter to Romeo and had given it to Friar John. He thought Friar John would bring back an answer.



Have you been to see Romeo, Friar John?

I have bad news, Friar Laurence. The house I was staying in was locked up all day yesterday because they thought someone had a disease that would spread to others. No one was allowed to come or go until they were sure everything was all right.



The letter you gave me never reached Romeo.

What? Quick, get me some tools! Juliet will wake up in three hours, and Romeo won't be there!

POCKET CLASSICS

At this very moment the county Paris was at Juliet's tomb. Suddenly his servant called out to him.

Sir, I hear horses coming.

Then I'll step aside for a moment. I don't want anyone to see me.

Romeo and Balthasar drew near to Juliet's tomb. They had just arrived from Mantua.

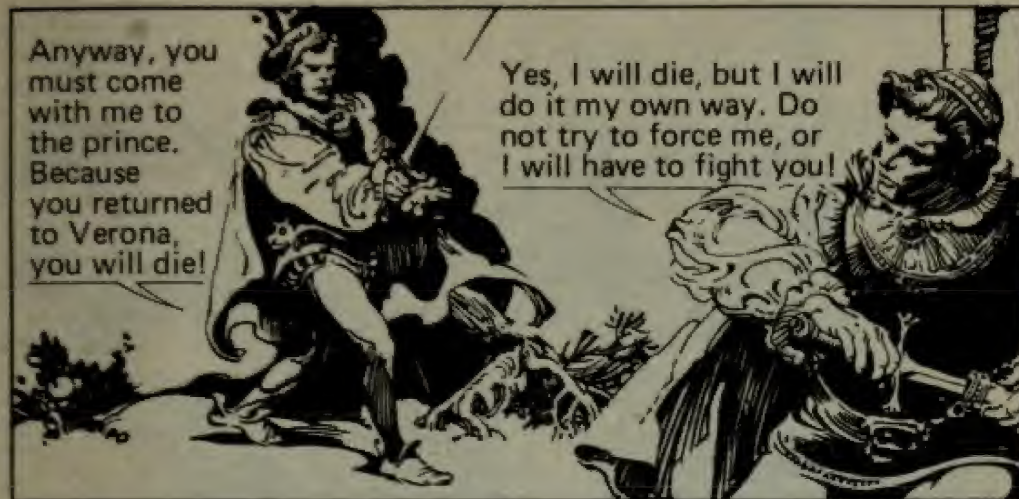
Take this letter, Balthasar, and give it to my father. I would like to be alone.

I will go, sir.

When he had gone, Romeo used Balthasar's tools to open the tomb. Seeing this, Paris stepped from the shadows and ordered Romeo to stop.

Romeo, you killed Juliet's cousin and she died from sadness at his death. You must not do anything else to hurt her family. Leave her tomb alone.

Romeo and Juliet



But Paris would not listen. The two men fought, and Paris was killed.



Suddenly Romeo realized that the man he had just killed was Mercutio's cousin. Mercutio had been one of Romeo's best friends.

Now I know who this young man was.



Saying this, Romeo picked up the body of Paris and walked into the tomb.



POCKET CLASSICS



Just before he fell, he kissed Juliet one last time.



Moments later, Friar Laurence and Balthasar entered the tomb. Juliet had just awakened.



He is dead, Juliet, and so is Paris. Let us get out of here at once!



Romeo and Juliet

But Juliet was too shocked and sad to leave. Meanwhile, Friar Laurence was afraid to be found by the guards, and he and Balthasar left quickly.



With this, she took Romeo's dagger and plunged it into her heart.



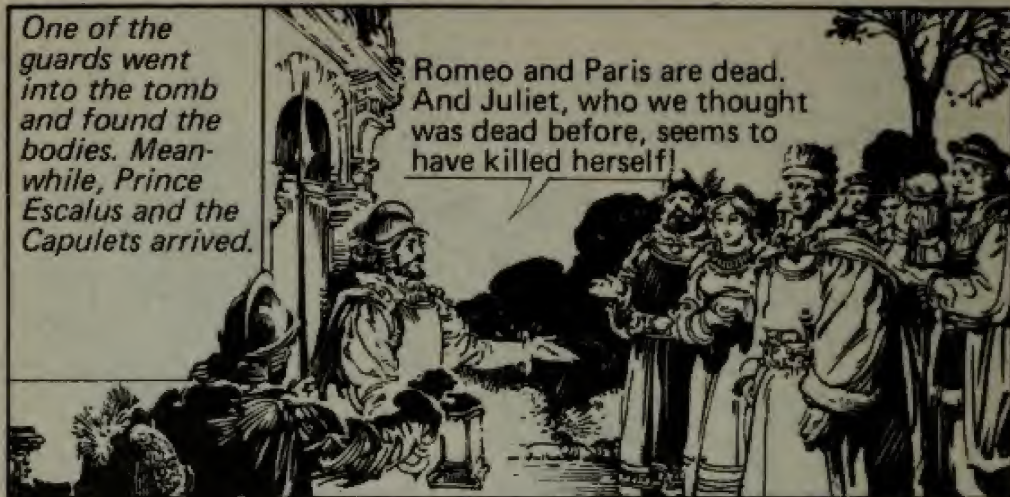
Called by Paris' servant, several guards soon arrived at the tomb. Another guard brought Balthasar and Friar Laurence back.



POCKET CLASSICS

One of the guards went into the tomb and found the bodies. Meanwhile, Prince Escalus and the Capulets arrived.

Romeo and Paris are dead. And Juliet, who we thought was dead before, seems to have killed herself!



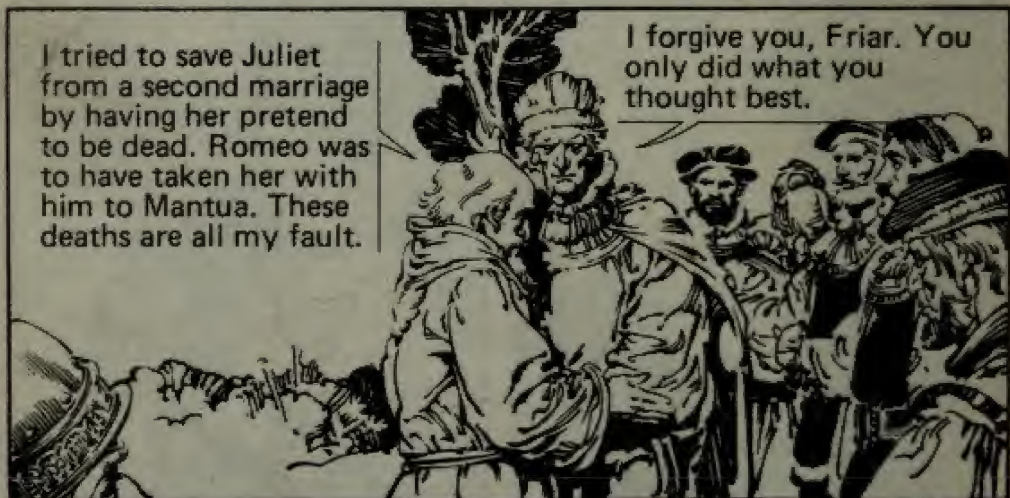
Balthasar and Friar Laurence were brought forward for questioning just as Lord Montague reached the tomb.

I will tell you what happened here, Prince Escalus. I secretly married Romeo and Juliet.



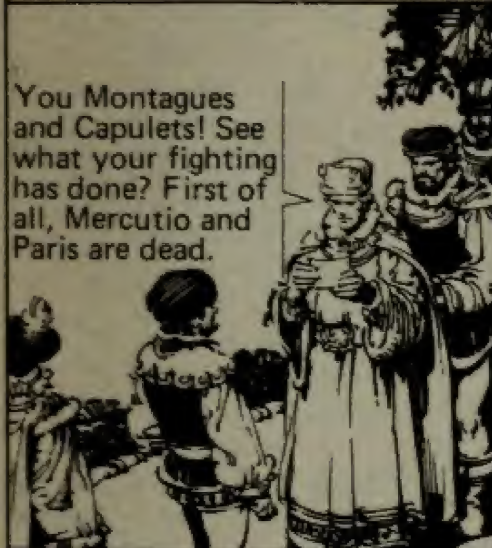
I tried to save Juliet from a second marriage by having her pretend to be dead. Romeo was to have taken her with him to Mantua. These deaths are all my fault.

I forgive you, Friar. You only did what you thought best.



Romeo and Juliet

At that Balthasar handed Prince Escalus the letter Romeo had given him. It proved what Friar Laurence had said was true.



You Montagues and Capulets! See what your fighting has done? First of all, Mercutio and Paris are dead.

The Capulets have lost Juliet and the Montagues have lost Romeo. All of us have been punished because of you!



And finally, at the prince's words, the two families realized how stupid they had been.

Montague, give me your hand. From this day forth our feud is over!

I give you my hand and more. We shall never fight again!

That is good! But for now, let us leave this place. The sad story of what happened here will remain with us always!



COMPLETE LIST OF POCKET CLASSICS AVAILABLE

CLASSICS

- C 1 Black Beauty
- C 2 The Call of the Wild
- C 3 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- C 4 Dracula
- C 5 Frankenstein
- C 6 Huckleberry Finn
- C 7 Moby Dick
- C 8 The Red Badge of Courage
- C 9 The Time Machine
- C10 Tom Sawyer
- C11 Treasure Island
- C12 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- C13 The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
- C14 Gulliver's Travels
- C15 The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- C16 The Invisible Man
- C17 Journey to the Center of the Earth
- C18 Kidnapped
- C19 The Mysterious Island
- C20 The Scarlet Letter
- C21 The Story of My Life
- C22 A Tale of Two Cities
- C23 The Three Musketeers
- C24 The War of the Worlds
- C25 Around the World in Eighty Days
- C26 Captains Courageous
- C27 A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
- C28 The Hound of the Baskervilles
- C29 The House of the Seven Gables
- C30 Jane Eyre
- C31 The Last of the Mohicans
- C32 The Best of O. Henry
- C33 The Best of Poe
- C34 Two Years Before the Mast
- C35 White Fang
- C36 Wuthering Heights
- C37 Ben Hur
- C38 A Christmas Carol
- C39 The Food of the Gods
- C40 Ivanhoe
- C41 The Man in the Iron Mask
- C42 The Prince and the Pauper
- C43 The Prisoner of Zenda
- C44 The Return of the Native
- C45 Robinson Crusoe
- C46 The Scarlet Pimpernel

**COMPLETE LIST OF POCKET CLASSICS AVAILABLE
(cont'd)**

- C47 The Sea Wolf
- C48 The Swiss Family Robinson
- C49 Billy Budd
- C50 Crime and Punishment
- C51 Don Quixote
- C52 Great Expectations
- C53 Heidi
- C54 The Illiad
- C55 Lord Jim
- C56 The Mutiny on Board H.M.S. Bounty
- C57 The Odyssey
- C58 Oliver Twist
- C59 Pride and Prejudice
- C60 The Turn of the Screw

SHAKESPEARE

- S 1 As You Like It
- S 2 Hamlet
- S 3 Julius Caesar
- S 4 King Lear
- S 5 Macbeth
- S 6 The Merchant of Venice
- S 7 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- S 8 Othello
- S 9 Romeo and Juliet
- S10 The Taming of the Shrew
- S11 The Tempest
- S12 Twelfth Night

POCKET



Romeo and Juliet

POCKET CLASSICS bring great literature to life!

Three witches on a lonely heath . . . a young girl in a death-like trance . . . the ghost of a murdered king—these are the characters of Shakespeare. Travel with them as they come to life on the pages of the Pocket Classics. Visit Scotland, Italy, Norway, England and magical islands in the middle of the sea; you'll soon discover for yourself that Shakespeare is one of the great writers of all time.



ISBN 0-88301-768-7

Printed in U.S.A.